LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR of the ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Minister of Health has directed that in view of the increasing pressure of work of local authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper interim reports only should be made for the year 1939.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (1931) 9,067 males and 10,504 females (19,571).
Estimated resident population (1939) 22,760.
Number of inhabited houses 5,820.
Number of houses erected during the year by the Council 64.
Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise 385.
Birth rate per 1,000 population 15.3
Death rate per 1,000 population 7.7
Deaths under one year per 1,000 births 34.

MORTALITY TABLE.

Of the 175 deaths during the year 27 were due to Cancer or Malignant Disease, 43 to Heart Disease, 14 to Other Circulatory Diseases, 10 to Pneumonia and 8 to Tuberculosis.

Infant Mortality.

Of the 12 deaths of infants under one year, 7 were due to Premature Birth.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	42	Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Diphtheria	17	Enteric Fever	2
Pneumonia	13		

There were 4 deaths from Diphtheria and 10 from Pneumonia during 1939.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1		1	1	1				
5	1							
10				1				
15	2	4						
20	2	2						1
25	3	1		1				
35								
45	1	1			2	1		
55	1				1	1		
65		1		1	1		1	
	10	10	1	4	4	2	1	1

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT AS IN 1938 REPORT.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year 12 samples were submitted for analysis.

A piped supply has been extended to the Gustard Wood portion of the Parish of Wheathampstead, and the work in connection with the provision of a piped supply for the Parish of Redbourn is in hand.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

The sewerage scheme for the Parish of Sandridge was completed towards the end of the year and the work in connection with the provision of sewers in the Parish of Redbourn is well advanced.

HOUSING.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 27
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition and Clearance Orders 18

Housing Act, 1936. Part 4 - Overcrowding.

1. (a) Number f dwellings overcrowded at the 1st September, 1939 8
   (b) Number of families dwelling therein 8
   (c) Number of persons dwelling therein 64

2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the first eight months of the year 6

3. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the first eight months of the year 27
   (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases 196

In the first eight months of the year the Sandridge housing scheme (20 houses) and the Redbourn housing scheme (44 houses) were completed and some 50 families from condemned and/or overcrowded houses were transferred thereto.

It is unfortunate that, because of the war, the schemes for the erection of a considerable number of houses in the Parishes of Wheathampstead and St. Stephen have had to be deferred.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Eight infested houses were dealt with, two of which were Council houses. In two cases the bedding was subjected to steam disinfection and the premises were sealed up and fumigated. In the remaining six cases a liquid fumigant was supplied.

During the year 50 families were removed from condemned and/or overcrowded houses to new Council houses and, as a precautionary measure, their household furniture and effects were treated for the destruction of vermin. All bedding was subjected to steam disinfection and the furniture and other effects were placed in a sealed room and fumigated.

CAMPING SITES.

Action under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, was taken in respect of a camping ground in the vicinity of Woodside Avenue, Bricket Wood. The amenities of the district were being prejudicially affected by the presence of and the condition arising from the moveable dwellings on this site, and complaint was made to a court of summary jurisdiction. The court made an order requiring the removal of the dwellings and prohibiting any moveable dwellings being placed within any part of an area specified in the order.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are ten private slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard in the district. A decision regarding the licencing of these premises under the provisions of Section 57 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, had not been reached at the end of the year but the proposed introduction of centralised slaughtering as a war time measure would seem to suggest the advisibility of licencing all existing registered and licenced slaughterhouses and knacker's yards and of deferring the question of the closure of unsuitable premises until the end of the war.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are, within the district, 57 registered cowsheds, distributed as follows:-

Harpenden Rural	4	St. Peter Rural	5
Redbourn	14	St. Stephen Rural	10
St. Michael Rural	5	Sandridge	11
Wheathampstead	8		

Three new cowsheds were erected during the year.

The number of persons registered as retail purveyors of milk is 58. Of these 22 are milk producers in the district, 4 are distributors with dairy premises in the district, 19 are shop-keepers who sell small quantities across the counter, and 13 are distributors who operate from premises outside the district.

The following licences are in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:-

Designation.	Number.	Licencing Authority.
Tuberculin Tested Milk (production of)	7	County Council.
Accredited Milk (production of)	17	County Council.
Dealer's Licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence respecting sale of Pasteurised Milk	3	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence respecting sale of Accredited Milk.	2	Sanitary Authority.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.